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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,280	08/20/2003	Howard Sinkoff	7647-03468	7474

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BRINKLE Y, MORGAN, SOLOMON, TATUM, STANLEY, LUNNY,
& CROSBY, LLP
200 E. LAS OLAS BLVD, SUITE 1900
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

EXAMINER

MARSH, STEVEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,280

Applicant(s)

SINKOFF, HOWARD

Examiner

Steven M. Marsh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,9,12-18,24 and 28-43 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,9,12-18,24 and 28-31 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 32,33,35-40 and 43 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 34,41 and 42 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the fourth office action for U.S. Application 10/644,280 for Novel Cable Tray Assemblies filed by Howard Sinkoff on August 20, 2003. Claims 6, 7, 9, 12-18, 24, 28-43 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 32, 33, 36-39, 40, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Di Meo et al. Di Meo discloses a cable tray with a cable support assembly that has a weight-bearing base portion and a plurality of sidewalls (20). The sidewalls are connected to longitudinal edges of the base portion, extend in a common direction perpendicular to the base portion, and the base portion defines a plurality of open ends. There is a connector receiving member (29) connected to the base portion of the cable support assembly proximate a first open end of the cable support assembly. The connector-receiving member has two parallel sections (each side of 30) separated by a space (30, which has a J-shaped portion and can perform as a hook) and extending transversely across at least part of a width of the base portion. The two parallel sections of the connector-receiving member are arranged to at least receiving at least a portion of a first fastener in the space therebetween. There is a connector-receiving element of the same configuration as the connector-receiving member connected to the base portion of the cable support assembly proximate a second open end of the cable support assembly (29 on the opposite end of that shown in fig. 2 for connecting multiple trays). The connector-receiving element is positioned directly

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across from the connector-receiving member along a length of the base portion of the cable support assembly.

With respect to claim 40, Di Meo also discloses a connector-receiving member (23, 24, and 25) integrated into a sidewall of the cable support assembly proximate an open end of the cable support assembly. The member includes parallel sections separated by a space and extending transversely across at least part of a width of the sidewall. The parallel sections are arranged to at least receive a portion of a fastener (28) in the space therebetween and there is an arched member interconnecting common ends of the two parallel sections. The connector-receiving element forms a looping element (27) that extends beyond the open end of the cable support assembly and the loop member and parallel section include respective electrically conductive portions (metal) that are arranged to engage the fastener.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Di Meo et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,199,756 to Bartlett et al. Di Meo et al. does not disclose a connector-receiving member formed of wire. Bartlett et al. discloses a connector (20) and teaches that sheet metal and wire are functional equivalents as the material used for the connector. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have utilized wire as the material for the connector taught by Di Meo, as taught by Bartlett et al., as a matter of engineering preference because they are functional equivalents.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7, 9, 12-18, 24, and 28-31 are allowed. Claims 34, 41, and 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose a cable tray system with first and second cable trays as claimed by Applicant, connected by a connector receiving proximate an open end of a first cable support assembly element including two parallel wire sections separated by a space and extending transversely across at least a part of a width of a base portion of the cable tray, and a connector receiving element proximate an open end of a second cable support assembly and including two parallel wire sections separated by a space and extending longitudinally beyond the open end of the second cable support assembly, whereby the space between the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving element of the second cable tray overlaps the space between the two parallel wire sections of the connector receiving member of the first cable tray when the second cable tray is positioned adjacent the first cable tray, and a fastener passes through the member and element to secure the two together.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 12, filed August 24, 2006, with respect to claim 24 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of 24 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Marsh whose telephone number is (571) 272-6819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

SMh
Steven M. Marsh

March 15, 2007


ANITA KING
PRIMARY EXAMINER